



## Human Rights Commission –Minutes

Date: Wednesday, August 16, 2023

Time: 8:00 PM

Location: 27 Maple Street, HHS Conference Room, 2nd Floor

Conducted by Hybrid (Remote and In-Person)

This will be a hybrid meeting. Individuals may choose one of the following in-person or virtual options:

1. Attend in person in the 2nd Floor HHS Conference Room at the Community Center (Senior Center), 20 Academy Street/27 Maple Street. Registration not required for in-person attendance.

**\*Notice to the Public on meeting privacy\*** To prevent abuse of video conferencing technology (i.e., Zoom Bombing), all participants, including members of the public, wishing to engage via the Zoom App must register for each meeting and will notice multi-step authentication protocols. Please allow additional time to join the meeting. Further, members of the public who wish to participate without providing their names may still do so by registering to receive the meeting info and using the dial-in telephone information provided.

When: August 16, 08:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

[Register in advance for this meeting](#)

*On March 29, 2023, Governor Healey signed into law a supplemental budget bill that extends the temporary provisions pertaining to the Open Meeting Law to March 31, 2025. Specifically, this extension allows public bodies to continue holding meetings remotely without a quorum of the public body being physically present at a meeting location and to provide "adequate, alternative" access to remote meetings. The language does not make any substantive changes to the Open Meeting Law other than extending the expiration date of the temporary provisions regarding remote meetings from March 31, 2023, to March 31, 2025.*

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/updated-guidance-on-holding-meetings-pursuant-to-the-act-extending-certain-covid-19-measures>

**Attendees:** Co-Chairs Carney, Pusey. Commission members: Soneja, Bryant, Horowitz, G. Jones, Beauchemin. Absent: Comm. Grossman, Key, Bauer, S.Jones

**DEI Director:** Jillian Harvey

**APD:** Capt Flynn

**Community members:** Rebecca Gruber

## Minutes:

1. Remote Meeting Notice and Land Acknowledgement.  
read by Co-Chair Carney
2. Review of July 2023 Meeting Minutes.  
Typos: Interfaith  
Motion to approve with Horowitz/Bryant. All voted yes with 1 abstaining
3. Incidents & Complaints & APD Updates
  - a. Commissioner Updates  
One new incident. Comm Beauchemin reported on hate language used during dog-walking. Resident unhappy to be contacted by AHRC, resident requested that a prominent sign indicating leash laws should be posted. Occurred at Buzzell field. Discussion about protocol in such cases if the respondent did not want to be engaged by the AHRC.  
Previously reported incidents: No updates
  - b. APD:  
National Night Out: was a well attended event. Active shooter training completed, interviewing candidates for part-time mental health clinicians, MH continue to be received APD, Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training continues – helps decipher MH calls & helps re-directing people to the appropriate resource. Helps officers better understand the crises that people go through, helps identify the symptoms and provides more “tools in the tool belt”.
4. DEI Update (Jillian Harvey):
  - a. Continue to participate in the Dept head meetings, follow up from equity meetings, pilot language access tool with different departments, folks to be trained. Jill to provide cultural humility component Sep-Nov. Tools to be used in libraries, front office of TH, Parks & Rec, Inspection Services, AYCC (Cindy Curran).
  - b. Submit projects for ADA improvement grant
  - c. Continue to support MBTA Community groups
  - d. Planning continues for Resource Fair – looking at Oct for the next iteration, Town Hall is not available
  - e. Civic Academy – 6/8 week program to be led by Public Info Officer, limited to 20 people, recd. 60 applicants. Crash course in local governance, 6-8PM every Thurs.
5. MAHRC Update/Issues-Commissioner Soneja
  - a. Raise The Age Statement – discussion about next steps and to ask Chief Flaherty for the possibility of endorsement by APD
6. Working Groups Update
  - a. Schools & Education – did not meet
  - b. Outreach/Events – did not meet
  - c. Communications – 4 members, next newsletter focused on Hispanic heritage month, looking for contributors
  - d. Town Day (Saturday, Sept. 23 – sign-up sheet, encouraging members to sign-up)
7. Co-Chairs Report
  - a. Commissioner Participation & Expectations (WG Sign-ups)

- b. APD Meeting with Chief Flaherty. – meeting updates reported by Capt Flynn in the APD updates portion. Discussion about threats faced due to nationalist movements.
  - c. DEI Co-Chairs – did not meet
- 8. MBTA Communities Zoning: AHRC Support/Statement
  - a. R Gruber (WG member) – Reported on guidelines, feedback about public transportation routes, adjacent to commercial areas, info gleaned via surveys, forums. Drafted a map to present to the state (new agency called HOLC) for pre-approval. ARB will make final approval on maps. Roughly all along Mass Ave, some portion of Broadway. Multi-family zoning but no guarantee of what will end up being built, height limits set (less than 4 story with some exceptions). Resistance encountered by some who do not want new developments in town, and also by those who fear homes being taken away due to lack of information.
  - b. Discussion about possibility of a statement of support from AHRC, this could be done after a WG presentation from MBTA WG to AHRC and/or other DEI Commissions.
- 9. Community Input. None
- 10. Announcements. None
- 11. Incident Handling
  - a. August: Commissioner Beauchemin
  - b. September: Commissioner Key
  - c. October: Commissioner Bauer
- 12. Adjournment. Motion to adjourn Soneja/Bryant. Unanimous

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 20, 2023, 8:00 pm, Remote Participation

Anyone needing accessibility information or assistance to attend this meeting should contact [dei@town.arlington.ma.us](mailto:dei@town.arlington.ma.us). This meeting is open to all interested individuals.